

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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STATE FOR AF/W

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TAGS: BEXP, GH
SUB GHANA 3RD INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR

1. THE GVR OFFICIALS LAST
NIGHT (AUGUST 4, 1975) HONORED THE TWELVE COUNTRIES SIGNED UP
TO PARTICIPATE IN GHANA'S 3RD INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR, BY
HOLDING A FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY.

2. GOG COMMISSIONERS PRESENT WERE: LT. COL. R.J. FELLI,
ECONOMIC PLANNING , COL. C.R. TACHIE-MENSON, INFORMATION, AND
ALHAJI LT. COL. D.A. IDDISAH, TRADE AND TOURISM.

3. AFTER APPROPRIATE AND COMPLIMENTARY SPEECHES BY TRADE
FAIR OFFICIALS AND AN ADDRESS BY COMMISSIONER IDDISAH, THE
COUNTRIES' FLAGS WERE RAISED IN THE ORDER OF AGREEMENT TO
PARTICIPATE. (EACH COUNTRY RECEIVED AN OFF-KEY SALUTE BY THE
POLICE BAND BUGLE CORPS.)

4. PAKISTAN'S FLAG WAS FIRST. THE 4TH FLAG WAS THE U.S.A.
IT WAS RAISED UPSIDE DOWN, THE DISTRESS SIGNAL* (I WAS
INDEED DISTRESSED*)

5. THE P.R.C. FLAG WAS RAISED, ONLY IT WAS TAIWAN'S*

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6. THE G.D.R. FLAG WAS HOISTED --UPSIDE DOWN*

7. I CLEARED MY THROAT LOUDLY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE OFFICIALS. A RUNNER WAS SENT OUT TO THE FLAGS AND OURS WAS TAKEN DOWN AND SENT UP AGAIN CORRECTLY. THE P.R.C. AMBASSADOR HAD SENT HIS INTERPRETER OUT TO THE FIELD AND THE TAIWAN FLAG WAS LOWERED WITH NO REPLACEMENT.

8. ALL OF THE ABOVE WAS FILMED BY A TELEVISION CREW FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, HERE TO DO A 30-MINUTE PROFILE OF "A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE U.S. AMBASSADOR." SINCE SUN HAD SET, AND GERMAN FILM CREW HAD NO LIGHTS, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THIS PORTION OF COLOR FILM WILL BE USABLE. HOWEVER, I HAVE ASKED PAO ED PANCOAST TO CHECK THIS OUT, AS I WISH TO AVOID EMBARRASSMENT TO ALL COUNTRIES INVOLVED--INCLUDING GHANA*

9. AT A SMALL RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY, I APPROACHED THE P.R.C. AMBASSADOR TO COMMISERATE WITH HIM. HIS EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR YANG KE-MING WAS COLD AND ANGRY. HIS INTERPRETER ASKED ME IF THE TELEVISION CREW WAS FROM MY COUNTRY. I REPLIED, "NO, THEY ARE FROM THE F.R.G." THE AMBASSADOR THREW UP HIS HANDS AND STOMPED AWAY.

10. WITH SIX MONTHS TO GO BEFORE THE TRADE FAIR, I TRUST THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE IRONED OUT-- AND WE WILL FARE BETTER IN FEBRUARY.

NOTE: THE GHANAIA GENTLEMAN IN CHARGE OF ALL THE FLAGS WAS LAST SEEN RUNNING AWAY FROM THE CEREMONIAL SITE, AND HAS PROBABLY REACHED TOGO BY NOW.
BLACK

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